

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/969,900 filed October 3, 2001 and is directed to additional preferred embodiments described in the parent application but not claimed therein.

Under separate cover, applicants have filed an Information Disclosure Statement for the Examiner's consideration as required by 37 CFR §1.98 (a)(2) and a copy of all the cited references.

By this preliminary amendment claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-14, and 25-29 have been amended. Claim 31 is hereby canceled. Thus, the claims in the case are claims 1-30.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite compositions comprising preferred block copolymers that are derived by nitroxide mediated living free radical polymerization. The block copolymers prepared by this process share a common molecular feature, namely the presence of a nitroxide group or radical in one or more of the polymer blocks.

Claim 29 has been amended to an independent method claim that clearly and definitely recites the step of the method.

Support for all amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, pages 8, 14, 19-22, 29, 46-48 and Examples 1-60.

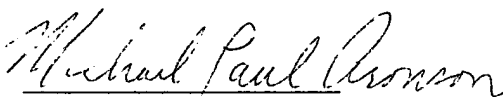
Page 1 of the specification was amended to add a new sentence required to ensure continuity under 35 USC 120, specifically describing the relationship of this application to earlier United States applications (Application No. 696,900 and Application No. 09/978,085) from which it depends.

Pages 55 and 57 of the specification were amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error, namely the units of molecular weight expressed in the headings of columns 3-5. The units should have been kDa (kilo Daltons) but were inadvertently transcribed as "Daltons" or "Da", as is clear from the magnitude of the Mw values in the table compared with other mentions of molecular weight and its units (either 1000's of Daltons or kDa) elsewhere in the specification and claims. See for example pages 10, 59, and 70 and claims 16 and 17.

Both of these amendments do not introduce new matter.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, undersigned agent invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted



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